water at 52—2C for 5 minutes having a concentration of 100-500 ppm depending upon maturity and variety.

Setting up of a National Fisheries Development Board in Hyderabad

419. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to set up a National Fisheries Development Board in Hyderabad to study various aspects of supporting tuna and deep-sea fishing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its present status; and

(c) the projected estimates of potential of the tuna and deep-sea fishing in earning foreign exchange and for employment generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The National Fisheries Development Board has been registered under the Andhra Pradesh Societies Registration Act, 2001 and is located at Hydeabad. The Board shall co-ordinate activities pertaining to fisheries undertaken by different Ministries/Departments in the Central Government and also work in coordination with the State/Union Territories Governments to improve production, processing, storage, transport and marketing of the products of capture and culture fisheries.

(c) The estimated deep sea fishery potential in our Exclusive Economic Zone is about 2,73,000 tonnes, out of which, the tuna resources alone is about 2,12,500 tonnes. No precise information regarding the estimated foreign exchange earnings and employment generation on account of exploiting the estimated deep sea fishery potential is available which depend upon various factors such as type of species harvested, fishing methods adopted, marketing trend etc.

Contract farming

420. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to institutionalize contract farming in the country;